

# Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ L. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ April 20-21, 2005 \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic:** Informational Briefing and Discussion: Teacher Licensure Regulations

**Presenter:** Dr. Thomas Elliott, Assistant Superintendent for Teacher Education and Professional Licensure

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## Origin:

\_\_\_\_ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

\_\_\_\_ Board review required by

\_\_\_\_ State or federal law or regulation

\_\_\_\_ Board of Education regulation

\_\_\_\_ Other: Board of Education By-laws

\_\_\_\_ Action requested at this meeting

X Action requested at future meeting: At a date to be determined, the Board of Education will adopt revised licensure regulations

## Previous Review/Action:

\_\_\_\_ No previous board review/action

\_\_\_\_ Previous review/action: Board approved Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to initiate regulatory process

date: January 2005

action: Approved NOIRA

**Background Information:** Section 21-298 of the *Code of Virginia* requires that the Board of Education prescribe the requirements for licensure of teachers by regulation. The last comprehensive review of the *Regulations Governing the Licensure of School Personnel* was conducted in the mid-1990s with regulations becoming effective July 1, 1998. The regulations need to be revised based on federal and state legislation as well as to address recommendations to clarify and change requirements for licensure.

**Summary of Major Elements:** In January 2005, the Board of Education approved a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action for revising the teacher licensure regulations. The NOIRA document stated the following:

The *Code of Virginia* requires that the Board of Education prescribe the requirements for licensure of teachers by regulation. Amendments to the *Regulations Governing the Licensure of School Personnel* are needed to respond to enactments of federal and state laws and recommendations for changes in the licensure requirements for school personnel.

A comprehensive review of the licensure regulations will be conducted. The regulations in their entirety will be examined, including reading, school leadership, special education, middle grades (6-8), endorsement titles and requirements, license renewal, and a multi-tiered licensure system. The visiting teacher endorsement will be recommended to be discontinued. The definition of the local eligibility license will be aligned with amendments to federal legislation and the *Code of Virginia*.

The licensure regulations must be amended to reflect a *Code of Virginia* amendment and reenactment of Section 22.1-298. This amendment requires that “on and after July 1, 2004, persons seeking initial licensure or license renewal as teachers complete study in child abuse recognition and intervention, curriculum guidelines for which shall be developed by the Board of Education in consultation with the Department of Social Services.

It is important to note that, since the NOIRA was announced, the Board of Education has established the Special Committee to Study and Make Recommendations Relative to Teacher Licensure Assessment. The committee’s work and deliberations are now under way. The committee is expected to make recommendations in the near future. Therefore, the Board is requested to review the committee’s recommendations prior to discussing the assessment requirements contained in the licensure regulations.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** N/A

**Impact on Resources:** N/A

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:** During the coming months, the Board of Education will receive the recommendations of the Special Committee, review and approve proposed revisions to the licensure regulations, public hearings will be held, and final regulations will be adopted.